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¶ A Proclamation for the calling in and fruſtrating all Commiſſions for the making of Salt-peter granted forth before that to George Euelin and others, the 28. of Ianuary 1587. whereby many of her Maieſties ſubiects were greatly abuſed, as alſo that all peter made by the ſaid later Commiſsions doe bring the ſame into her Maieſties ſtore, &c.

WHereas the Queenes moſt excellent Maieſtie for the increaſe & maintenance of her Highneſſe ſtore of powder for the ſeruice of the Office of her Ordinance, did heretofore graunt diuers Commiſſions for the making of Salt-peter within this her Maieſties Realme of England, by vertue whereof, ſuch (to whom the execution thereof was committed) by colour of their ſaid authoritie, and by reaſon of the generalitie of words therein contained, contrary to the true meaning of the ſaid Commiſſions, haue forced and drawen from diuers and ſundry her Maieſties louing ſubiects great ſeruices, and haue vnduely procured from them great exactions by taking of their woods and cariages, and by other indirect meanes, to the great grieuance, and diſturbance of her Maieſties ſaid ſubiects: of which miſdemeanours (her Maieſtie hauing vnderſtanding) for the more eaſe of her Highneſſe ſubiects, and repreſſing of ſuch enormities, her Highneſſe by her Maieſties letters of Commiſſion bearing date the xxviii. day of Ianuary, in the xxx. yeere of her Maieſties raigne, did graunt vnto George Euelin Eſquier and others, full power and authoritie for the making of Salt-peter aforeſaid, at their owne proper charges, and therein did not onely inhibite and forbid all ſuch forcements and exactions of ſeruices and other miſuſages of her ſubiects in their houſes, grounds and woods, as had bene required and vſed by colour of the ſaid former Commiſſions, but alſo by the ſame Commiſſion did reuoke and call in all former Commiſſions before the ſaid 28. day of Ianuary. Sithens the granting of which later Commiſſion, diuers perſons authoriſed by the ſame vnder the ſaide George and Iohn Euelin for the working and making of Salt-peter, haue fraudulently procured to themſelues by indirect meanes ſome of the former Commiſſions, and by colour of the ſame haue troubled many her Maieſties ſubiects, contrary to the expreſſe will and pleaſure of her Maieſtie in that behalfe. Her Highneſſe therefore vpon due conſideration of the premiſſes, and to the ende her Maieſties louing ſubiects be not ouerpreſſed, charged, nor preiudiced contrary to her Maieſties ſaid gracious intent, willeth and commandeth all Iuſtices of Peace, Maiors, Shiriffes, Bailiffes, Conſtables, and all other her Maieſties Officers & miniſters, by all due meanes to ſearch and finde out ſuch former Commiſſions afore the ſaid xxviii. of Ianuary, and the ſame to cancell, and all ſuch perſon and perſons that from the publiſhing of this Proclamation, ſhall goe about to attempt to worke or take vp any thing by colour of the ſaid former Commiſſions, that ſuch perſon and perſons by the next Iuſtice of Peace (where ſuch offence ſhalbe done) be forthwith committed to priſon, there to remaine during her Maieſties pleaſure. And where great quantities of Salt-peter made by vertue of her Maieſties latter Commiſſion, be, and haue bene by the ſaid peter-makers conuerted vnto other vſes then for her Maieſties ſeruice, as is expreſſed in the ſame Commiſſion, to the great diſappointment and diſfurniſhing of her Maieſties ſtore of that proviſion: Her Maieſtie therefore ſtraitly chargeth and forbiddeth all Salt-peter makers, and all other perſon and perſons whatſoeuer, to ſell, buy, or otherwiſe procure vnto themſelues directly or indirectly by any wayes or means whatſoeuer, any Salt-peter made or hereafter to be made by vertue of her Maieſties Commiſſion aforeſaid, but that ỹ ſame may be brought into her Maieſties ſtore within ỹ Tower of London, according to the true intent of her Maieſties Commiſſion in that behalfe to them granted, vpon paine of ſixe moneths impriſonment both to the buyer and ſeller, and loſſe of the Salt peter, or the value thereof ſo ſold and bought. And further, her Maieſtie vnderſtanding of ſome bad and euil diſpoſed perſons (to the hinderance of ſo needfull a proviſion to be had and made within this her Maieſties Realme) practiſe to deſtroy & make waſte ſuch ground as the ſaid Petermakers (to their great coſt and charges) haue made and founded for the ſeruice aforeſaid: Her Maieſtie therefore willeth likewiſe & commandeth all Iuſtices of peace, Maiors, Shiriffes, Bailiffes and Conſtables, and al other Officers and miniſters within their ſeuerall limits, diligently to enquire from henceforth of ſuch miſdemeanors, & ſuch perſon or perſons that from henceforth ſhalbe found faultie and to offende in the premiſſes, to be by the next Iuſtices of the peace (where ſuch offence ſhalbe done) committed to priſon, there to remaine during the ſpace of ſixe moneths, without Baile or mainprize, and vntil her Maieſties pleaſure bee further therein knowen. Giuen at her Maieſties mannour of Richmond, the xiii. of Ianuarie 1589. In the 32. yeere of her Highneſſe raigne.

God ſaue the Queene.

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